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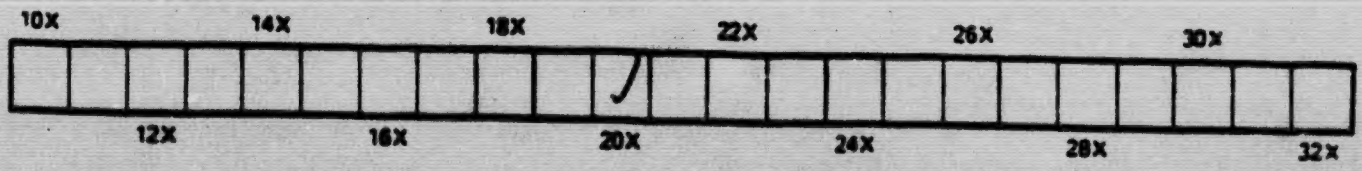

The Canadian Political Science Association

A CANADIAN CLEARING-HOUSE FOR DISCUSSION.

The Problems.

Is not the time ripe in Canada for the formation of a national society for the full and free discussion of our political and economic and social problems?

The questions that face Canadians have greatly multiplied in recent years. Growth has brought growing pains. In a decade we have had a generation's normal industrial change. Social and political unrest in Britain and the United States is proving contagious. We are yearly shouldering new responsibilities of nationhood. Foreign policy is becoming of vital interest. For years we have been threshing out the question of our relations to the rest of the Empire, but have not yet reached a definite solution. New political expedients are being advocated to meet new problems of government. This year Saskatchewan is proposing to adopt the initiative and referendum; is this real or sham democracy? What of that other expedient, also borrowed from the United States, but based on contrary principles, city government by commission? Is our federal system working satisfactorily? Does political corruption prevail in Canada to an abnormal degree, and, so far as it does exist, is it to be accepted as a permanent fact? What housing policy,

what town planning schemes, what recreation facilities do the growing size and complexity of our cities require Are our powers of assimilation equal to the task the flood of immigration is imposing? Economic issues are as manifold. Land taxation is a burning question, but critical investigations of the Canadian situation are few. Railroads always present a double problem, first, how to get them, later, how to control them. What of the merger movement in industry? in banking? The tariff and tariff discussion we have always with us, but the questions of protection and of our external trade relations are still far from being settled. Do changing industrial conditions warrant introducing Lloyd-George social experiments into Canada? How is the employer to secure an adequate and trained labour supply? Is the workingman securing his fair share of the country's prosperity? What solution is in sight of the labour and marketing difficulties of our farmers? What of industrial education, government ownership, socialism, and a score of similar issues?

Aids in Solution.

Of course, these and other problems are being faced. Parliaments discuss; administrators experiment. The press provides our chief source of light, though often of heat as well. The universities reach a narrower audience. Canadian Clubs and Boards of Trade supply a useful forum. Manufacturers, farmers, trade unionists, have their conventions, often inspired with encouragingly broad Canadianism—as in the recent treatment of work-

men's compensation by the Manufacturers' Association—but usually limited by natural prejudices and preoccupations. Manitoba has developed an effective Economic Association. Charity workers or town planners have occasional or periodic conferences. But would it not be possible to supplement these various agencies of discussion by an association of more general scope, free from the partisanship of parliaments, though with party politicians as well as government officials among its members; less hurried than the daily newspaper, though with newspaper men in its fold; less theoretic than professional economists, though utilizing their services as well; less specialized in view point than the banker or manufacturer or farmer, but including them all? It would seem as if such an association of men keenly interested in Canada's welfare could do much to focus opinion, to find out facts, to thresh out solutions. It might hold meetings for the presentation of papers or for round table discussions, secure co-operation in investigation, and publish its proceedings and papers. It would commit itself to no policy, but offer a free field for presenting and discussing any policy.

The New Association.

In the United States such organizations have, for a quarter century, played a notable part in stimulating and clarifying discussion. They include among their members many Canadians interested in common problems. In December, 1912, advantage was taken of the fact that

an unusually large number of Canadians were in at
ance at the joint meetings of the Economic, Pol
Science, Historical and Sociological Associations he
Boston, to discuss the organization of a Canadian soc
Opinion was unanimously in favor of the need and f
bility of such a movement. Accordingly, an associa
was formed, termed, for brevity, the Canadian Poli
Science Association, though including economic and so
issues in its scope; the appended constitution, based
existing models, was drawn up, and two officers, Ac
Shortt, of the Dominion Civil Service Commission, Pr
dent, and O. D. Skelton, Queen's University, Secreta
Treasurer, appointed to undertake the preliminary
ganization. It was thought desirable to postpone
permanent selection of officers until the first gene
meeting, to ensure the fullest possible representation
all sections and interests of Canadian life. It is plann
to hold this first meeting in Ottawa, probably in Septe
ber, when a varied programme of papers and round tab
conferences of leading Canadians will be presented.

Reference Facilities.

Difficulty is frequently experienced, especially by
those who have not access to large libraries, in finding ou
what are the best sources of information on current
Canadian issues. One of the objects of the Association
will be to issue, from time to time, annotated lists of
the most convenient and authoritative references on these
subjects. Meantime, any member will be entitled to send
in a request for such information to the Secretary, who

will endeavor to furnish references if they are immediately available, or to enlist the good offices of some member who has made a special study of the topic.

Membership.

The dues, two dollars a year, or fifty dollars for life membership, will entitle each member to a copy of the annual proceedings and papers.

It is hoped that every Canadian whose position or abilities impose on him corresponding responsibilities, who has a clear vision of the magnitude of the problems we face, and a faith in the power of frank conference to bring understanding, if not always agreement, will join in this endeavor.

Applications for membership and other correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer, O. D. SKELTON, Kingston, Ontario.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CANADIAN POLITI SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I—NAME.

This Association shall be known as the Cana Political Science Association.

ARTICLE II—OBJECT.

The encouragement of the investigation and stud Political, Economic and Social problems. The Asso tion as such will not assume a partisan position upon question of practical politics nor commit its member any position thereupon.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP.

Any person nominated by two members and acce ed by the Executive Council may become a member this Association.

There shall be an annual membership fee of t dollars.

By a single payment of fifty dollars any person m become a life member, exempt from annual dues.

Each member will be entitled to receive a copy of the publications of the Association issued during his her membership.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS.

The officers of this Association shall consist of a Pre sident, three Vice-Presidents and a Secretary-Treasurer

who shall be elected annually, and of an Executive Council, consisting ex-officio of the officers above mentioned and of ten elected members, whose term of office shall be two years, except that of those selected at the first election five shall serve for but one year.

All officers shall be nominated by a Nomination Committee composed of five members appointed by the Executive Council, except that the only officers appointed to act until the holding of the first annual meeting shall be the President and Secretary-Treasurer, and the officers for the first year following the first annual meeting shall be nominated by a Committee of three to be appointed by the Chairman of the meeting at which the Constitution is adopted.

All officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Association present at the meeting at which the elections are held.

ARTICLE V—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

The President of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Council, and shall perform such other duties as the Executive Council may assign to him. In his absence his duties shall devolve successively upon the Vice-Presidents in the order of their election and upon the Secretary-Treasurer.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the records of the Association, shall receive and have the custody of the funds of the Association, subject to the rules of the Executive Council, and perform such other duties as the Executive Council may assign to him.

The Executive Council shall have charge of the general interests of the Association, shall call regular and special meetings of the Association, appropriate money, appoint Committees and their chairmen, with appropriate powers, and in general possess the governing power in the Association except as otherwise specifically provided in this Constitution.

The Executive Council shall have the power to fill vacancies in its membership occasioned by death, resignation, or failure to elect, such appointees to hold office until the next annual election of officers. Five members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Council, and a majority vote of those in attendance shall control its decisions. Ten members shall constitute a quorum of the Association, and a majority vote of those members in attendance shall control its decisions.

ARTICLE VI—RESOLUTIONS.

Any proposed resolution to which objection is made by any member shall be referred to the Executive Council for its consideration before submission to the vote of the Association.

ARTICLE VII—AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed by the Executive Council and adopted by a majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the Association, except that at the first general meeting amendments may be proposed by any member present.